

Today's News - Tuesday, July 28, 2009

- More on the sad state of Russia's architectural treasures "being subjected to such devastation for the sake of earning a fast megabuck."
- A California firm at the helm of plans for green "Millennium City" planned for Ghana's shores.
- A re-thinking of airport design where the arrival experience will trump the departure sequence and terminals will be smaller, greener, and less expensive.
- Moore ponders why a Stirling nominee is "the exception rather than the rule when it comes to medical facilities...It is thoughtful and clear-headed and humane" (what a concept!).
- Hume cheers an extreme library makeover where the architects have "acquitted themselves brilliantly," creating an ivory tower that has been "opened up, plugged in and de-ivoried."
- A new architectural system that "might give a city a touch of that post-apocalyptic, nature-reclaims-city look" (and that's a good thing).
- A Manhattan post office distribution center turns a "tar- and stone-covered no-man's land" into one of the largest green roofs in the city (employees welcome).
- San Francisco's Presidio gets a museum after all - this one to celebrate Uncle Walt (and nary a protester in sight).
- A digital Museum of Afghan Civilization by Yona Friedman soon to be just a click away.
- Paris's La Maison de Verre is still a work in progress (and only architects and architecture students may visit).
- In a different Paris (this one in Ontario), a call to rescue a Gothic Revival masterpiece (and a great history of Gothic architecture to boot).
- Call for entries: IIDA / Metropolis Smart Environments Awards; and POP.Park Competition to bring Park(ing) Day out of the box.

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Saving Russia's architectural treasures: Preservationists release a new report on at-risk buildings in Moscow and St. Petersburg..."there is no other capital city in peacetime Europe that is being subjected to such devastation for the sake of earning a fast megabuck"... -- Moscow Architecture Preservation Society (MAPS)- GlobalPost

Westlake architect creating Ghana's 'Millennium City': ...a development that would bring various "green" technologies to the coastal African country...planning team envisions a self-sustaining "green" city... -- Heathcote & Associates- Ventura County Star (California)

Terminal case: Rethinking the ticket hall: As the economy slumps and air travel evolves, airports adapt...the entire departure sequence will diminish in importance, giving airports...the opportunity to celebrate the arrival experience instead...airports will be able to build smaller, greener, less-expensive terminals that can be adapted to what will surely be continuing changes in the airline industry. -- Gensler; XChange Architects- MSNBC

A remedy for sick buildings: The new Kentish Town Health Centre is bright and functional — so why is it the exception rather than the rule when it comes to medical facilities? It is thoughtful and clear-headed and humane...it is hard to find many others with the simple virtues of this one... By Rowan Moore -- Alford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) [images]- Evening Standard (UK)

Extreme makeover: library edition: Toronto Public Library marks another success with Bloor/Gladstone renovation...Local architects...acquitted themselves brilliantly...It is a civilizing force, an ivory tower that has been opened up, plugged in and de-ivoried...feels a part of something larger, urban and historical. By Bhristopher Hume -- rounthwaite, dick and hadley; Shoalts and Zaback; ERA [image]- Toronto Star

The only way is up for green cities: ...a new architectural system...transforms buildings into columns of vegetation...might give a city a touch of that post-apocalyptic, nature-reclaims-city look seen in movies like I am Legend, but anything that adds a splash of green to city centers while cleaning the air has got to look good. -- Vertical Landscapes [images]- Gizmag (Australia)

Postal Service Unveils Large 'Green' Roof: One of the largest "green" roofs in New York City...at its Morgan Processing and Distribution Center on Ninth Avenue...transformed from a tar- and stone-covered no-man's land into a 2.5-acre parklike recreational space for its employees... -- Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architects; Tecta America [image, links]- New York Times

In San Francisco, A Museum to Celebrate Walt Disney: ...converting an old army barrack, a gymnasium, and a storage facility at the historic Presidio into The Walt Disney Family Museum...will open October 1... -- Page & Turnbull; Rockwell Group [images]- Architectural Record

Yona Friedman to Design a digital Museum of Afghan Civilization: It is typical of his grasp of the cultural power of architecture that he has conceived the digital museum as housed within the Buddhist caves of Bamiyan... [images, links]- The Architect's Newspaper

Paris's Luminous Secret: The sleekly modern (1932) La Maison de Verre: ...owned since 2006 by an American with a passion for architectural conservation and the mechanical sleekness of modernism...The Maison is a work in progress. Only architects and architecture students, not ordinary visitors, can gain entry. -- Pierre Chareau; Bernard Bijvoët; Louis Dalbet [images]- Wall Street Journal

Paris Old Town Hall: What Future For This Internationally Significant Civic Gothic Revival Masterpiece? Should the fate of this internationally significant building be left in the balance, or should all levels of government be pro-active in saving this jewel of our architectural heritage? By Malcolm Thurlby -- John Maxwell (1854) [images, links]- Raise the Hammer

Call for entries: IIDA / Metropolis Smart Environments Awards to recognize individuals and collaborative teams creating excellent, leading edge interior environments; deadline to request entry kit: September 24- IIDA/Metropolis

Call for entries: POP.Park Competition: We're bringing Park(ing) Day out of the box...design a portable and affordable pre-fabricated POP.Park that people can use to reclaim public space each and everyday of the year; deadline: September 1 - Transportation Alternatives

Book Review: "Everything Must Move: 15 Years at Rice School of Architecture 1994-2009": There's a Texas flood of architectural ideas that gives ample evidence of an architecture school that unsettles pat assumptions. Who could ask for anything more? By Norman Weinstein - ArchNewsNow



Christian de Portzamparc: Musee Hergé, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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